



# The Marshall Christian

LIX

No. II

February 2017

## Elder/Deacon Serving Schedule

### February 5th

Elders:

Vickie Wise  
Paul Crews

Deacons:

Annette Miles  
Makenzie Thomason  
Lori Layton  
Seth Layton  
Wayne Wise

### February 12th & 19th

Elders:

Loretta Green  
Wayne McReynolds

Deacons:

Vince Buck  
Dane Branson  
Gwen Clemens  
Linda Crews  
Tiffany Thornton

### February 26th & March 5th

Elders:

Ken Bryant  
Virginia Bryant

Deacons:

Butch Ash  
Linda Crews  
Zach Crews  
Amanda McCord  
Shirley Schultz

### Outside Communion:

February 12th

Donna Smith  
Kay Wise

### Worship Leaders

February 5- Buddy Hannaford  
February 12- Wayne Buck  
February 19- Julie Hoffelmeyer  
February 26- Ken Bryant

## “Preparing for the Table”

I recently spent some time considering the importance of communion as part of our worship, and the events that surround our gathering at the table. One of the resources for my research was “*The Elder at the Lord’s Table*”, a book by Thomas Toler first published in 1954. Under a section titled “Responsibilities of the Elder” was a subheading “Dress”. Here are a few quotes from that portion of the text: “A white shirt and tie are always proper. It is doubtful that sports clothing is ever in good taste. In extremely hot weather a man may remove his coat after he has returned to his pew from presiding at the table. A man should pay attention to the color and length of the socks he wears when serving at the Communion Service... bare shins or highly colored socks can easily detract from the service.”

The author wrote only for male elders in an age before women elders or praise services. I wonder what he would have to say today about the dress of those who have presided at the table at many worships I have attended - teenagers in shorts, t-shirts and sandals (no socks) at camp worship services offering crackers dipped in soda pop; elders wearing football jerseys and sneakers giving communion prayers; various people at retreats wearing blue jeans and hooded sweatshirts repeating the words of institution.

I agree that one’s physical appearance in worship, especially that of the leaders, can add or detract from the meaning of the service itself. But

in a larger sense, we all come to that table each time we approach it just as we are – broken or worn down by life, in states of confusion or frustration, aching from the inward pain of sorrow, with eyes swollen from crying or half open from lack of sleep, in need of forgiveness and reconnection with God, but always as those who have been invited to the table by Christ whose words and actions prepare the table for us.

There is no room for pretense at the table. God sees beyond our dress and knows our thoughts and our hearts. That is why Paul urges us in *1 Corinthians 11:27-29* to examine ourselves prior to partaking of the elements. So whether I’m wearing a tux or sweatpants, no matter what I am feeling, in the words of that well known hymn, “Just as I am...I come.”

In God’s Grip, Loy



## Roof Repairs

Repairs will soon begin on the church roof. Depending on weather, this will take about a month. Please be aware when entering or exiting the building during work days.



## February Anniversaries & Birthdays

- 3– Greg Schultz  
Shirley Schultz
- 4– Sidney Ehrhardt
- 7– Dorothy LaRue
- 8– Chloe Venable
- 10– Jarid Wise
- 11– Barb Utlaut
- 12– Tim Boedeker  
Taylor Pistel  
Bill Rutledge
- 14– Bailey Ann Merchant  
Michelle Porter  
Taylor Scarff
- 15– Trish Fletcher  
Bennett Kueker
- 16– Mona Baker  
Jordan Bishop
- 18– Mary Anderson

- 18– Nellie Estill
- 19– Marge Fletcher  
Grace Miles
- 21– Sue Bailey  
Roger Payne
- 22– Alexandra VanDyke
- 23– Laura Clemens  
Maggie Hoffelmeyer  
Jillian Pointer  
Melissa Shannon
- 25– Garrett Green
- 26– Kirby Rugen
- 27– Zach Crews
- 28– Eric Arnett  
Loretta Green

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 19– Jimmy & Shaquina Shannon

Lillie Bates CWF Circle met December 7th at Bloomfield's for a Christmas lunch, with nine present. The group enjoyed visiting, with Roberta reading a "Thank You" letter from Church World Services concerning Blanket Sunday offering. A thank you to all who helped make it a huge success.

*We want to thank our Church family for all the kindness extended to us at the time of George's death, Rev. Loy for his visits to the ICU room and comforting words at his service. To all who helped and brought food to the house or for the lunch we will always be grateful. The prayers, cards and visits will long be remembered. We have been blessed.*

*The Green and Ledman Families*

### Looking Back at Our History

Homecoming Sunday on September 24 will celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our congregation. This year we are including an article in each month's newsletter about the history of our church or a connection to the congregation's past. The following is from the program for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church on September 27, 1942:

In the 'Harbinger' of 1842 (the 'Millennial Harbinger' was a magazine which ran from 1830 – 1890 and was published by Disciples founder Alexander Campbell to promote the Disciples movement), this item occurs from the pen of C. M. Allen: "Held a meeting at Marshall, Missouri, and organized a church with 27 members." This is the first record of the existence of the Marshall Christian Church. The early struggle was a difficult one in the pioneer conditions of that time. The church first met in the court house on Sundays. Aaron Bruce and Stuart Harris were the first officers. A modest frame building was erected and served until the Civil War. Records were destroyed then and the early history was lost. The church has occupied four buildings – the frame building before the war, then a larger frame building on the present location, followed by a brick building and the remodeled present structure. Aaron Bruce gave the location we now occupy. Reuben Eubank gave the parsonage, then on North Jefferson. The church has always given liberally to the missionary and benevolent causes of our church and has furnished men and women of power in local, and state civic, religious, and educational fields. Eighteen young people have been sent out to special Christian work. A long list of noble men and women could be recorded here if space permitted. We face the new century with courage.

### Revised By-Laws Adopted

Due to the hard work of Buddy and Karla Hannaford, Ken Bryant, Vickie Wise, and others over the past two years, the church by-laws underwent a much needed revision since they were last revised in 1996. At the January meeting, the church board voted to accept the by-laws as they have been revised.

### Fellowship Dinner

The Fellowship Committee will host a fellowship dinner on February 12. Pork loin, baked potatoes, green beans, corn, lettuce salad and rolls will be served. Please bring a dessert or fruit salad to share.



## Love is...

So, it is officially February. People across the world wait anxiously for the person who loves them to show it with gifts, cards, candies and a night out. Lord help the significant other who falls short of expectations! I must admit that I have always wanted those little trinkets of reminders to be presented to me on Valentine's Day. For as long as I can remember, if Valentine's Day fell on a work day, I would wait impatiently to see if I would receive flowers. I don't remember ever being disappointed, which means one of two things. One, I was so sweet and kind that whoever I was with couldn't imagine NOT giving me something special. Or two, in the grand scheme of things... it really didn't matter. Let's eliminate the options. Option one. I hope that I am kind, and I hope that I am sweet. But let's face it, there is a reason men in my past are just that...the past. I would place bets on the fact that my relationships did not end because THEY were always at fault. I can be crabby, cranky, overbearing, stressed, opinionated and even hateful at times. I know...shocking! By process of elimination, option two seems the more plausible.

In the moment, on those fateful past Valentine's Days, I know very well that I, like I said, waited to see what would be delivered. But today, I could not tell you what was or was not received. Were there flowers? Sure. Candy's? Umm, there better have been! A card professing undying love? You betcha! But when the last

piece of chocolate was eaten, or the last petal fell from the stem...these gifts were discarded and done. Their significance was so momentary that it never made a lasting impression in my heart. Over the last few years as I've matured (I could have said gotten older, but I don't think realizations come with an age). I've allowed myself to see beyond the glitter, beyond the treasures, and understand what it is that I need to really feel loved.

First and foremost, I need a strong relationship with my Lord and Savior. I am at peace most when I allow myself to let Him lead my life. It is a struggle sometimes, because I have also realized over the past year that I am a micro-manager and want to take everything into my own hands. When I stop, take a step back, take a breath, and pray, things always work out so much better. The peace He brings into my heart is a love that can never be equaled.

Next, my children are the epitome of what love is to me. When you look at your children, no matter their age, you know you would lay down your life for them, as our Father did for us. From their first breath you see all the hope and future of the world in their little hands, and there is nothing you wouldn't do for them to be happy. No gifts are ever needed, or expected from them. A girl talk, a phone call, text, or an occasional day out together is all that is ever needed for me to feel their love.

Lastly, God blessing me by

putting Brad in my life has completed my overwhelming feeling of love. How this man puts up with my schedule and crazy life is beyond me. WHY he puts up with it is another mystery! He is a constant calmer, a confidante, friend, cheerleader, supporter, caregiver and rock. Plus, he does great impressions and has a phenomenal sense of humor. Brad isn't one to shower me with trinkets, although he does always go over-the-top on birthdays and Christmas. His gifts are given out daily to me, in generous doses of, "What can I do for you today" scoops. Every morning he tells me, "Good morning beautiful". If you ever witness me in the mornings, you will know this man must completely be in love with me to speak these words! A beauty I am not. But to him...I am, and that's enough for me. He brings me lunch every day. He does the laundry during the day so I don't have to when I get home late at night. He walks the dogs, even though he is not the fondest of owning three pets! The poor guy accepted that we all came as a package deal. And my favorite thing he does, he folds down my side of the bed for me at night. The list of things he does for me is never ending.

It took me years to figure it all out but I finally did. And life filled with love feels amazing. As my favorite quote goes, or kind of goes...

"What if love, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if love, perhaps, means a little bit more". Learning and Leaning,

Hope



### Upcoming Sermons

Feb. 5 "The Peace of Christ vs. the Peace of Rome" (Scout Sunday)	1 Corinthians 2:1-8
Feb. 12 "Our Marriage to Christ" (Valentine's Sunday)	Ephesians 5:22-33
Feb. 19 "It's Time to Choose"	Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Feb. 26 "Mountains to Inspire Us" (Transfiguration Sunday)	Exodus 24:12-18 & Matt. 17:1-9

First Christian Church  
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Marshall, Missouri 65340

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*Just a thought...*



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Stop by our new and improved church website at [www.fcmarshallmo.org](http://www.fcmarshallmo.org) to check out upcoming events and activities, serving schedules, bulletins and newsletters, and information about our groups, ministries, staff, etc.

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contact information:  
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*We're on the Web!*  
[fcmarshallmo.org](http://fcmarshallmo.org)

**Church Staff**

**Senior Minister– Rev. Dr. Loy Hoskins**

**Music Director–Hope Richards**

**Youth Director– Kris Milliron**

**Custodians– Ron & Carol Schupp,**

**Larry Smith**

**Financial Secretary– Ken Bryant**

**Secretary– Hope Richards**

**Pianists– Donna Smith, Kay Wise,**

**Judy Morris**